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RECTOR'S REPORT

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I am particularly happy to welcome in the name of Loyola its loyal friends and faithful ~~friends~~ alumni to this, our forty-third annual Convocation.

The year that is now coming to a close has been in many ways an auspicious one, during which Loyola has had to thank God for many blessings. As a fitting climax to this year has come the great honor, the high privilege that is ours tonight, of welcoming in our midst His Excellency Archbishop Ildobrando Antoniutti, the Apostolic Delegate, the representative in Canada of the common father of us all, the great pontiff now gloriously reigning, His Holiness Pope Pius XII. We have thus tonight a unique opportunity of offering YOUR Excellency in a perhaps more solemn and emphatic manner than could otherwise be, the heartfelt assurance of our unswerving loyalty to the Vicar of Christ. All of us, professors and students, alumni and friends, stand united on this occasion to pledge through Your Excellency the undying devotion of our hearts and souls to the Holy Father. May we add that the grief we shared in common with the rest of the Catholic world at the loss of Pius XI was softened and mitigated by the choice by the Holy Spirit of his successor, Pope Pius XII.

During the year that has passed we have been much heartened by the very fine spirit of the student body and the loyalty of the Alumni. The work of ~~the~~ every member of the faculty and the co-operation of the executive of the Alumni Association has done much to strengthen and improve this same fine spirit.

Among our alumni who are yet students at McGill and other

universities in Canada, England and the United States, while there have been reports of most gratifying success, there have been apparently no outstanding prizes or scholarships awarded. However, we are able to assure our friends that, so far, after diligent inquiry, we can find no single former Loyola student in these universities whose year of study has not been a successful one.

This year, too, marks the accession to the priesthood of several alumni. The Reverend Oswald Sullivan and the Reverend Richard King were ordained earlier in the year, while the Reverend John Frederickson, the Reverend Miles Kelly and the Reverend John Ryan will be ordained during this month. This raises the number of ~~pastors and curates~~ former Loyola students who are now pastors or curates in this archdiocese to twenty-one. In addition, the Reverend Walter Miller was last week ordained at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto, and three members of the Society of Jesus will also shortly be raised to the priesthood: the Reverend Frederick Elliott, Michael O'Donnell and Eric O'Connor.

Among those who have achieved distinction in other fields we can afford to mention but a few. In the recent elections of the Junior Bar Association, we find Mr. Luke MacDougall chosen as secretary and Messrs. George Broderick and Brendan O'Connor, this latter a member of the faculty, as councillors---I understand, 3 out of 5 of the English-speaking group. We should likewise mention the selection of another alumnus and member of the faculty, Mr. Timothy Slattery, as national chairman of the Catholic Youth Movement of Canada. Mr. Walter Merrill's election as mayor of Westmount is also gratifying to all alumni. As an indication amongst many others that a classical education does not in the least

well at N.Y. in dealing with the complicated financial problems of the U.S.

hamper progress in the business and industrial worlds, we might mention the appointment of Mr. Jules Archambault as Chief Engineer of the Montreal Tramways. The work that is being done in Mexico by Pedro Suinaga---once, here at Loyola, debater extraordinary and holder of Loyola's record field-goal kick, 55 yards, in the dying moments of an important game---is something that will probably be some day written into the Catholic history of that much-tried nation. Finally, not only alumni but all Canadians are proud of the manner in which the office of Canadian Representative to the French Republic is being filled by its recent incumbent, still another Loyola Alumnus, Col. George Vanier, Commander of the Legion of Honor.

To come back once more to the College itself and to consider its most vital activities, we find that the Sodality of Our Lady has enjoyed a particularly fruitful year. The non-resident Sodalists have united with their juniors, the Knights of the Blessed Sacrament, to attain in the course of three years a total of nearly 10,000 weekly masses and Communions in the college chapel, each one of which meant a definite act of self-sacrifice on their part, to say nothing of the many who frequented their own parish churches. The Sodalists have endeavored to give still more life to their spiritual activities by something of Catholic action and the corporal works of mercy. For instance, in the mission field $200 was collected from the saving of cancelled stamps. Again, 30 poor families, 275 persons were cared for this winter, fed, clothed, and what is perhaps more important, visited.

In debating we regret to report that the Inter-University Dominion Championship Cup has left us, for a while, after a stay here of three successive years. Nevertheless our debaters have been

successful on many occasions, e.g. in their debate against the University of Pennsylvania.

Our work in dramatics this year has been most gratifying. Apart from minor productions, the Dramatic Society staged one of their most spectacular ~~productions~~ endeavors, the famous medical drama, "Yellow Jack." It was rated by local papers as one of the best productions of the year. It is only fair to note that while the acting of the numerous cast was definitely above the average, an equally great performance was given by those students whose names did not appear on the programme and who, by themselves, planned, constructed and operated the staging and extremely complicated lighting and musical incidentals of the play, a splendid example of fine school spirit and co-operation. In connection with dramatic activities we are happy to announce the installment here of a motion-picture machine, with sound and talking equipment. It is hoped we shall be able to offer the boys fairly frequent films of both an educational and recreational character.

The Loyola COTC under the command of Col. John Long has lived up to its traditions of past years. Its recent Military Assault-at-Arms is considered the finest it has ever offered. The cadets had also the privilege of being assigned a post of honor as guardians to their Majesties during the recent Royal Visit. Their performance upon that occasion was a signal for many flattering comments. The work of the COTC's auxiliary, the High School Physical Training classes, was likewise satisfactory.

In the field of athletics our boys have established a most gratifying record. The football team won the Provincial Championship

of the Intermediate Interscholastic League. Our hockey players have for the second consecutive year secured for Loyola the Dominion Championship of the same league. More important still than trophies and championships has been the continued maintaining of clean sportsmanship and also the very fine response from all students to the appeal of the intra-mural leagues, which give every student an opportunity to take part in athletic endeavor. In order to encourage still further this response we are striving to put the campus in still better condition than it has known for a number of years, and a new, a fourth playing field will probably be ready before another year has elapsed.

Although our Maintenance Fund Campaign was not a complete success, still it is none the less due to our friends' generosity that our financial position has definitely improved this year. The smaller amount of money spent for interest and the gradually increasing number of students give us hope that next year, if not this year, we shall at long last more than balance our budget. To realize this hope we rely both upon the continued generosity of our friends who have pledged themselves to help us and upon their lively interest in Loyola, which we trust will prompt them to direct towards us a still greater number of the type of students we have been so fortunate in the past to acquire. To all our friends, whose assistance we value most highly, we are deeply grateful.

One last word to those who are really the focus of our gathering here tonight. To you, my dear Graduates, as you stand on the threshold of life, I give no last word of advice or warning. To do so would imply that your training needed this last word to complete it, and I do not think it does. I shall do no more than recall once more the story of another Loyola graduate---you've heard it before---whose last

letter to his mother reached her days after he had been buried in Flanders Fields, a letter wherein he reassured her that he had always....."kept it white." That is what Loyola, your other fond mother, your Alma Mater, expects of you, to keep it white, to keep flying high and proud the standard of her honor and of your honor. But remember, too, in after years, that Loyola will always be the kindly mother and that, white or grey or black, you'll always be Loyola's and Loyola will always hope and strive and pray for you.